

Summary of February 5 Conference Call

Participants: David Mabe and Don Essig, Idaho; David Peeler, Washington; James Thomas, Yakama Indian Nation; Patty Stone, Colville Tribe; Patty Perry, Kootenai Tribe; Russell Harding, Oregon; Rick Eichstaedt and Greg Haller, Nez Perce Tribe; Mary Lou Soscia, Richard Parkin, Adrienne Allen, and Dan Opalski, EPA.

Summary:

Status of Columbia River Mainstem TMDL MOA - OR and ID have signed. EPA and WA Ecology are working on a outreach strategy. WA is expected to sign soon.

Draft collaboration and outreach strategy - Reviewed the strategy. The latest version is based on comments from WA Ecology - Feb. 15, 2001

Information on EPA TMDL team - Dan Opalski introduced key members: Dan Opalski, lead EPA Executive; Mary Lou Soscia, Columbia River Coordinator and lead for working with states, tribes, and other federal agencies; Richard Parkin, overall lead for TMDL; John Yearsley and Ben Cope, lead for temperature modeling; Jannine Jennings, support from Region 10 TMDL unit; and Adrienne Allen, lead attorney.

Update on Discussions with Action Agencies on Water Quality Plan and TMDL - EPA and the Action Agencies are meeting at the Executive level and senior staff level to negotiate the implementation of the Biological Opinion and the connection with the TMDL development and implementation.

Meetings with states and tribes on gas variance issues - The Corps has sent out letters to the four states and 13 tribes requesting a future meeting to talk about a long term strategy. EPA has committed to help facilitate these meetings with the states. A meeting with Oregon is scheduled for February 27, 2001.

Implications of Power Emergency on Water Quality - EPA is running the temperature model to understand the impact of the 2001 flow decisions on water temperature. Results are being shared with the Region and predict, not surprisingly, high water temperatures for Summer 2001. EPA has requested more data to assist in a more accurate predictions.

Lower Snake Lawsuit oral arguments - Feb. 7. Decision on Feb. 16. See attached Idaho Statesman article.